

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00

DOTE-00 /086 W

----- 085146

R 241535Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4506

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0348

E.OZM 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, SF, CT

SUBJECT: PRESS SPECULATION ON SAG AID TO CAR

REF: PRETORIA 0553

1. SUNDAY TIMES PARIS CORRESPONDENT REPORTS MARCH 23
ON RUMOR CIRCULATING THERE THAT SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
MIGHT FINANCE BUILDING OF RAILWAY TO LINK CAR WITH SEA.
ARTICLE STATES THAT SA ENGINEERS WILL STUDY FEASIBILITY
OF PROJECT TO BUILD RAILWAY TO GABON PORTS OF LIBRE-
VILLE OR PORT GENTIL. ESTIMATED COST OF TOTAL PROJECT,
IF BUILT, WOULD BE \$250 MILLION OVER TEN YEAR PERIOD.
PRESS REPORT SAYS THAT RAILWAY SCHEME IS PERSONAL DREAM
OF PRESIDENT BOKASSA, WHO HAS BEEN UNABLE TO LINE UP ANY
OVERSEAS FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR IT, AND THAT A GRATEFUL
BOKASSA MAY BE NEXT AFRICAN LEADER TO MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER
VORSTER.

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2. COMMENT. AN INTERNATIONAL AID PROJECT OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CAR RAILWAY SCHEME WOULD SEEM TO BE BEYOND BOTH THE SAG'S ABILITIES AND INTENTIONS AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, GIVEN VORSTER'S DESIRE FOR DETENTE, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT SOUTH AFRICANS MIGHT HAVE DROPPED SOME, PERHAPS DELIBERATELY VAGUE, HINTS OF AT LEAST PARTIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE PROJECT.

HURD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, RAILROADS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAPET00348
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750103-0624
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750323/aaaaaukc.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PRETORIA 0553
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS SPECULATION ON SAG AID TO CAR
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, SF, CT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006